

## Message Text

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ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01

/054 W

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R 051240Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHEOS7317

INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMCONSUL BOMBAY

AMCONSUL CALCUTTA

AMCONSUL MADRAS

C O N F I D E N T I A L NEW DELHI 3099

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, IN

SUBJECT: J.P. MOVEMENT STIRS DISSENSION IN CONGRESS

REF: NEW DELHI 2756

1. THE VOCAL PRO-J.P., TRIO IN CONGRESS COMPRISING CHANDERSHAKER, MOHAN DHARIA AND KRISHNA KANT (PARA 7 REFTEL) LOST A ROUND MARCH 3 WHEN MRS. GANDHI DROPPED DHARIA FROM HER COUNCIL OF MINISTERS. IN RECENT WEEKS THE EX-MINISTER OF STATE FOR WORKS AND HOUSING HAS BECOME INCREASINGLY, AND IT SEEMS PURPOSEFULLY, OUTSPOKEN IN SUPPORT OF NARAYAN'S STAND ON SOCIO-ECONOMIC ISSUES AND AGAINST THE CPI AND ITS ANTI-J.P. LOBBY IN CONGREUI (THOUGH HE HAS OPPOSED J.P.'S CALL FOR ASSEMBLY DISSOLUTIONS AND "PARTY-LESS DEMOCRACY.) IN A MARCH 1 AHMEDABAD SPEECH, DHARIA PUBLICLY WARNED HIS PARTY THAT IT MUST GET SERIOUS ABOUT IMPLEMENTING ITS PROGRESSIVE PROGRAMS OR FACE THE FACT THAT "POVERTY IN INDIA IS SUCH A FORCE THAT IT CAN OVERTHROW THE MIGHTIEST OF GOVERNMENTS."

2. DHARIA'S INCREASED OUTSPOKENNESS AND THE APPARENT NARROWING OF THE CUSTOMARY LIMITS OF INTRA-PARTY DISSENT WITH NATIONAL  
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ELECTIONS LESS THAN A YEAR AWAY (REFTEL) APPEAR TO HAVE BEEN

BEHIND MRS. GANDHI'S DECISION TO OUST HIM FROM THE CABINET. IN HER TESTY DISMISSAL LETTER, SHE CHARGED DHARIA WITH PUBLICLY CRITICIZING "THE ACCEPTED POLICIES OF CONGRESS." CONGRESS PRESIDENT BAROOAH IN A PRESS BRIEFING CITED DHARIA'S BLATANT REJECTION OF CONGRESS PARTY WARNINGS TO DESIST RATHER THAN HIS ESPOUSAL OF A DIALOGUE WITH NARAYAN AS THE GROUNDS FOR DISMISSAL.

3. DHARIA AND HIS TWO COLLEAGUES APPEAR DETERMINED TO CONTINUE ON COSTSE.SG.P. NARAYAN MADE A PERSONAL CALL ON DHARIA AT HIS HOME SOON AFTER HIS CABINET OUSTER. CHANDERSHAKER AND KANT WERE BOTH PRESENT AND BOTH ACCOMPANIED DHARIA TO PARLIAMENT THE DAY AFTER HIS OUSTER. DHARIA TOLD THE PRESS THAT HE HAD TURNED DOWN AN INVITATION FROM MRS. GANDHI TO MEET WITH HER IMMEDIATELY AFTER HE WAS DISMISSED, AND NOTED IN A MARCH 5 STATEMENT TO PARLIAMENT ON HIS DISMISSAL THAT HE HAD HIMSELF SOUGHT AN APPOINTMENT WITH MRS.GANDHI FOR NEARLY THREE WEEKS BEFORE HE WAS FIRED. CHANDERSHAKER, IN A MARCH 3 IANSS STATEMENT, ANNOUNCED THAT DHARIA'S OUSTER WOULD NOT STILL "THE PRICE OF CONSTRUCTIVE DISSENT IN THE PARTY." IN HIS THIRTEEN PAGE STATEMENT IN PARLIAMENT, DHARIA REFUTED MRS.GANDHI'S CHARGE OF OPPOSING CONGRESS POLICIES AND REITERATED AT LENGTH HIS VIEWS AS STATED PARA 1.

4.DHARIA'S EXPULSION FROM THE CABINET HAS STIRRED MORE DEBATE ON THE DIRECTION OF NARAYAN'S MOVEMENT AND ITS IMPACT ON CONGRESS UNITY. NONE OF THE THREE "DISSENTERS", HOWEVER, HAS A SEPARATE SUPPORT BASE OF HIS OWN; KANT AND CHANDERSHAKER ARE MEMBER OF THE INDIRECTLY-ELECTED RAJYA SABHA AND ARE HEAVILY DEPENDENT ON THE PRIME MINISTER'S SUPPORT AT ELECTION TIME. BACK IN 1973, CHANDERSHAKER WENT SILENT FOR SEVERAL MONTHS AFTER FORMER FOREIGN MINISTER DINESH SINGH HAD BEEN SUSPENDED FROM CONGRESS FOR "HOBNOBBING" WITH THE OPPOSITION, AND UNTIL HE WAS GIVE CONGRESS ENDORSEMENT TO RUN AGAIN FOR THE RAJYA SABHA. MRS. GANDHI MAY BE HOPING THAT THE "EXAMPLE" MOHAN DHARIA REPRESENTS WILL AGAIN SERVE TO TIGHTEN PARTY DISCIPLINE.

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## Message Attributes

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**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
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**Disposition Authority:** CunninFX  
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**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
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**To:** STATE  
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